

HIGHLIGHTS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR CHRONICLES

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UKRAINE PROPOSES RUSSIA WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS BY CHRISTMAS, RUSSIA REFUSES

Russia troops are [trying](#) to conduct an offensive in four directions: Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Zaporizhzhia, while in the others they are trying to contain the operations of AFU units.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy [suggested](#) that Russia should start withdrawing its troops from Ukrainian territory by Christmas to prove its ability to renounce aggression, but Russia has [refused](#) to do so. [According](#) to Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, there is a possibility of a Russian offensive in late January-February 2023. This is indicated by Russia's ongoing mobilization, conscription and relocation of equipment.

Belarus has [announced](#) a "combat readiness inspection". The Ukrainian State Border Guard Service has [said](#) that it is monitoring what is happening and the number and nature of the Belarusian armed forces along the border with Ukraine has not changed, and the situation remains fully under control. Experts from the Institute for the Study of War [hold](#) a similar opinion.

The Russian armed forces continue to shell Ukrainian settlements, in particular [Kherson](#). Hromadske published a [report](#) from Kherson a month after its liberation. A summary of the situation on the front as of the morning of December 15 can be found [here](#). According to the AFU, Russian [losses](#) amount to about 96,000.

CRISIS MEASURES TO RESTORE THE ENERGY SECTOR

By the evening of 11 December, the energy sector was able [to restore](#) most of its generating capacity after shelling on 5-11 December. On the night of 13 December, operation in all the nuclear power units in Ukrainian-controlled territory was [resumed](#). After the drone attacks on [December 10](#), [1.5 million people](#) were left without power in Odesa and the surrounding region, a figure which later [decreased](#) to 300,000 people thanks to

successful repair work. Recommendations to evacuate given the challenging situation [have not been issued](#) by the authorities.

The most precarious situation is in Donetsk and Kharkiv Oblasts. Hospitals have [established](#) a five-day supply of fuel for alternative sources of energy supply in case of a prolonged blackout. Ukraine has also [ranked](#) who will receive electricity first. Four categories of energy consumers have been prioritized: critical infrastructure, such as water, heating and hospitals; military-industrial complex facilities that work for the state's defense; businesses that produce critical goods (such as bakeries and dairies) and the residential sector. Only after supplying these groups will electricity be supplied to other facilities.

At the same time, Russian President Vladimir Putin [confirmed](#) that the armed forces were targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

SUPPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The [European Commission](#) has mobilized emergency reserves to send 40 generators to Ukraine, each of which can supply power to a hospital.

[Germany](#) will provide Ukraine with 470 generators, 150 of which have already arrived in Ukraine, [France](#) has transferred 100 generators, [Slovakia](#) will supply about 300 more and [Azerbaijan](#) will provide over 45 power transformers and 50 generators. [Georgian](#) civil society raised funds to purchase 200 small generators for Ukraine. During the international conference "Solidarity with the Ukrainian People", which was held in Paris on 13 December, Ukraine [secured](#) one billion euros worth of aid, 415 million of which will be earmarked for the [energy](#) sector.

Despite attempts by [Hungary](#) to veto, the Council of the European Union [has agreed](#) on a legislative package that will allow the EU to allocate 18 billion euros in aid to Ukraine in 2023. The funds will be used to finance Ukraine's urgent needs, rebuild critical infrastructure and provide initial support for sustainable post-war reconstruction. The decision will be considered by the European Parliament next week.

[Norway](#) has also decided to allocate \$100 million to the rebuilding of Ukraine's infrastructure.

LIKELIHOOD OF SHIPMENT OF POWERFUL LONG-RANGE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS TO UKRAINE INCREASES

CNN has [reported](#), citing three sources, including a senior White House official that the US will finalize its plans to send Patriot surface-to-air missile systems to Ukraine. The plan must be approved by the US Defense Secretary and then signed by US President Joe Biden. Patriots will be the most effective long-range air defense system supplied to Ukraine. The [US](#) has also allocated another \$275 million for military assistance to Ukraine: the aid package [includes](#) new equipment to counter enemy drones and strengthen air defense. The Pentagon is also expected to include missiles for the HIMARS system, ammunition, military vehicles and generators. US congressional committees [have agreed](#) on the US defense budget for 2023. Ukraine is being allocated \$800 million, an increase of \$500 million over

what the White House had originally requested. In addition, the US Department of Defense is to provide a plan for short- and long-term assistance to Ukraine.

[Germany](#) has announced the transfer of 18 self-propelled artillery units and other equipment to Ukraine, and they will also [provide](#) Ukraine with two Skynex air defense systems worth 182 million euros – their delivery is planned for early 2024. [The UK](#) will provide Ukraine with new anti-aircraft weapons and short-range air defense missiles, while the [Slovakian](#) government has approved a new military aid package.

[Norway](#) is contributing some 14.5 million euros to a European Union mission to train Ukrainian military personnel. For the first time in EU history, a non-EU country is making a financial contribution to the European Peace Facility used for projects under the EU Common Security and Defense Policy.

The Bulgarian parliament has [approved](#) a list of weapons to be included in a first military aid package for Ukraine.

DETAILS OF EU'S 9TH SANCTIONS PACKAGE

The head of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen has [announced](#) the 9th package of EU sanctions against Russia. It will include, among others, restrictions on Russia's access to drones through third-country suppliers and new export controls, including on dual-use goods that can be used for warfare. Additional economic measures against Russia's energy and mining sectors are also being discussed, and some 200 individuals and entities, notably three banks, will join the sanctions list.

The new sanctions package must be agreed by member states in the EU Council and discussions are [ongoing](#). Reuters notes that Hungary may oppose the new sanctions.

In addition, the EU plans to introduce a [special representative](#) who will monitor compliance with the sanctions – this position is due to be created in January.

The [US](#) has imposed new sanctions against Russian citizens involved in human rights abuses in Ukraine. In particular, four Russian officials responsible for organizing infiltration in Ukrainian territory have been added to the list. [The UK](#) also imposed new sanctions, in particular, on 12 Russian army [commanders](#), including commanders of units that have been implicated in missile strikes on Ukrainian cities.

CRITICISM OF RED CROSS OVER PRISONER AID

Another [prisoner exchange](#) took place on 6 December: 60 Ukrainian service personnel were returned from Russian captivity, including those held in the Olenivka penal colony. More than half of those released had defended Mariupol.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) [said](#) it had been able to visit both Ukrainian POWs held in Russia and Russian POWs held in Ukraine in recent weeks.

The Office of the Ukrainian President [criticized](#) the ICRC for not sufficiently ensuring the rights of Ukrainian POWs, while the Ukrainian Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights Dmytro Lubinets [stressed](#) that the ICRC had not coordinated its actions with the Ukrainian side. This is not the only topic on which the ICRC faces criticism, for example,

Ukrainian officials have previously [noted](#) the organization's passive position on the removal of Ukrainian children by the Russian occupiers.

Ukraine has also [initiated](#) an international mission to monitor the conditions and state of Ukrainian residents held by Russia.

Hromadske [tells](#) the story of a doctor who was held prisoner.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE AWARDED TO UKRAINIANS

On 10 December, World Human Rights Day, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in Oslo. One of the [winners](#) was the Ukrainian NGO Center for Civil Liberties, which is also a member of the civil society platform CivilM+. For the first time in the award's history, the Nobel Prize was awarded to Ukrainian citizens. The head of the CCL, Oleksandra Matviichuk, called for a change in the approach to justice for war crimes, to set up an international tribunal and bring war criminals responsible for military operations against Ukraine to justice for all the victims. She also said that she viewed the award as recognition of the efforts of all the Ukrainian people who have bravely stood up against attempts to destroy the peaceful development of Europe. The full text and video of her speech can be read [here](#).

DEBUNKING FAKES

UKRAINE NOT PREPARING MASS EVICTION OF RUSSIANS FROM CRIMEA: IT IS ABOUT RUSSIAN CITIZENS WHO ILLEGALLY ENTERED CRIMEA

Russian [media](#) are [spreading reports](#) that Ukraine is preparing a mass [eviction](#) of Crimean residents, sometimes referring to them as "[rossiiane](#)" (Russian citizens), and sometimes "[russkie](#)" (ethnic Russians). These reports are fake.

The media refer to a [column](#) for Ukrainska Pravda by the Permanent Representative of the Ukrainian President in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Tamila Tasheva, and a number of her [interviews](#). She said that after de-occupation, one of Ukraine's tasks will be to resolve the situation with Russian citizens who illegally settled there after the occupation. According to her data, the number of Russian citizens who entered Crimea in violation of Ukraine's border crossing rules and remain there exceeds 500,000 people. According to Ukrainian legislation, they are staying there illegally. At the same time, Crimean residents who lived there before 2014 are not included in this.

The reports from propaganda media outlets are part of the Kremlin's narrative that residents of the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine have allegedly "lost" Ukrainian citizenship and are Russian citizens. This narrative was developed even [before](#) Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and is still [used](#) today. In particular, this is how Russia tries to [legalize](#) the forced distribution of Russian passports to Ukrainian citizens.

In 2014, Ukraine adopted a [law](#) "On guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of citizens in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine". Residents of the temporarily occupied territories are citizens of Ukraine even if they have been forced to obtain Russian passports.

Any documents that Russia issues to residents of the occupied territories are illegal and are [not recognized](#) by Ukraine or [other](#) countries.

This fake is therefore part of another wave of disinformation about Ukraine's "abandonment" of residents in its temporarily occupied territories or its desire to "punish" them for living under occupation. It is intended to spread mistrust and fear both in Ukrainian society as a whole and among residents who find themselves in temporarily occupied parts of it.